

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE — VETOING
SENATE BILL NO. 95.

Governor's Office,
Austin, Texas, March 24, 1913.

To the Senate.

Section 1 of Senate bill No. 95 reads as follows:

"Section 1. One who has heretofore bought or may hereafter buy public free school land on conditions of settlement and occupancy in the counties of Andrews, Bailey, Cameron, Cochran, Crane, Midland, Starr, Terry, Upton, Winkler, Yoakum, Ward, Zavalla, Schleicher, Sutton, Crockett, Val Verde, Terrell, Pecos, Reeves, Brewster, Presidio, Jeff Davis, Culberson and El Paso, may sell after one year from date of award any portion of said land to another purchaser of forty acres and of one-sixteenth of a section of tract or multiples thereof; said sale to be made and patents to issue in the manner provided in Article 4218K, Revised Civil Statutes of 1895, but such assignee shall complete the residence thereon as provided in Section 6 of the Land Sales Act of 1907, approved May 16, 1907."

It is not believed that this bill is for the public welfare. It undoubtedly would aid individual purchasers of school lands, but if these purchasers are permitted to sell small parts of a section, as is provided in Senate bill No. 95, it might materially effect the public school fund.

In 1907 an act was passed requiring tracts of land to be sold as a whole, and it was then believed practically all of the land of uniform quality had been disposed of, and that the greater amount of that which was unsold at that time was of such varying quality that if it were permitted to be purchased in small parts of sections the good land would be taken and the poorer would be left in the hands of the State and remain unsold. The purchasers of sections of school land, if the act here under discussion should become a law, could sell off the best parts of such tracts at good prices and forfeit the remainder to the State, and the school fund would be the sufferer.

For the reason that I can not consider the bill in the interest of the general public, the same is returned herewith without approval.

Respectfully,
O. B. COLQUITT,
Governor of Texas.